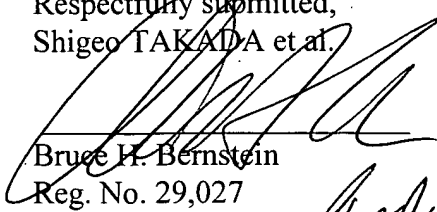



Favorable consideration with early allowance of all of the pending claims is most earnestly requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shigeo TAKADA et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
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December 4, 2003  
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